

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7218

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0281

LIMDIS

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (GREENMAN, JOSEPH GOLD)

SUBJ: EXPULSION OF FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR JOSEPH GOLD
GREENMAN

REFS: A) 76 SANA 266 B) 76 STATE 019612

SUMMARY: SAW FORMIN ASNAG 27 JANUARY RE GREENMAN CASE.

EVIDENCE, SUCH AS IT IS, APPEARS CIRCUMSTANTIAL AND
HIGHLY INCONCLUSIVE AND ASNAG DOESN'T DISAGREE BUT SAYS
FOR MIN ACTED WITH ITS EXPULSION ORDER THROUGH US TO
PREVENT SECURITY FROM ARRESTING AND CHARGING GREENMAN
DIRECTLY. BELIEVE THERE IS PROBABLY SOME GIVE IN MATTER
OF WHEN AND HOW GREENMAN MIGHT LEAVE, BUT I BELIEVE HE
WILL HAVE TO GO.

1. SAW FORMIN ASNAG AT 10 A.M. JANUARY 27 FOR AN
HOUR LONG MEETING RE: GREENMAN EXPULSION ORDER. PER
SANA 266 AND STATE 019612 I MADE NO DEMARCHE, MERELY PROBED
REASONS FOR THE PROVENANCE OF ORDER.

2. I BEGAN BY EXPLAINING BACKGROUND OF GREENMAN RESEARCH
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HERE. FOR THE RECORD, GREENMAN BECAME INTERESTED IN TWO

YEMENI COMMUNITIES IN US (DETROIT AND LACKAWANNA) AND BEGAN EFFORT TO TRACE INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH AND OF OTHER ARABIC SPEAKING COMMUNITIES IN US ON THEIR YEMENI DIALECTS. AS BASES OF COMPARISON, HE CAME TO YEMEN IN SEPTEMBER 1974 FOR EIGHT MONTHS TO RECORD AND EXAMINE DIALECT IN ITS NATIVE SETTING. HE WANTED ESPECIALLY TO SEE IF WAY OF LIFE HERE -- SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY-- REMAINED AS INFLUENCE ON LANGUAGE AFTER MIGRATION TO US. THUS HE WAS INTERESTED EVERYDAY LIFE IN HODEIDA -- TOOLS USED, HOUSES LIVED IN, MARKETS, ETC. GREENMAN TOLD ME LATER THAT HE HIRED PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS --- A SHOEMAKER SOME DITCH DIGGERS, A GUARD AT THE POST OFFICE --- TO COME TO HIS HOUSE TO TALK ABOUT THEMSELVES AT YR 5 AN HOUR. HE THEN HIRED A HODEIDA YOUNG MAN AS A FIELD ASSISTANT TO HELP HIM DECIPHER SOME OF THE INTELLIGIBLE ARGOT.

3. ASNAG SUMMARIZED FOR ME. PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH, SEVEN PAGE REPORT WHICH, HE SAID, HAD GONE TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WITH COPY TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. SOME ONE IN THAT OFFICE --- NOT PM BUT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ABDALLAH BARAKAT --- ABRUPTLY GAVE SECURITY GO AHEAD TO "DO WHAT IS NECESSARY."

4. SECURITY WAS MOVING TO ARREST AND POSSIBLY CHARGE GREENMANS WHEN ASNAG STEPPED IN TO PREEMPT MATTER. HE SAID WE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT GREENMANS HAD THREE DAYS TO LEAVE COUNTRY BUT IN FACT WE COULD TAKE SEVEN IF NECESSARY.

5. REPORT SAYS THAT GREENMANS POSED AS SURVEYOR WHO STUDYING DRAINAGE SYSTEM IN HODEIDA. (GREENMAN SAYS HE AND WIFE ATTEMPTED TO TRACE OLD WALLS OF CITY USING UN MAP PREPARED FOR NEW SEWAGE PROJECT.) REPORT SAYS HE QUESTIONED PEOPLE ABOUT TREATMENT BY GOVERNMENT. (GREENMAN SAYS HE NEVER DID.) REPORT SAYS HE TAUGHT ARABIC THREE TIMES A WEEK TO FOREIGNERS IN HIS HOUSE. (TRUE, SAYS GREENMAN.) REPORTS SAYS HE HAD PICTURE ALBUM SHOWING HIM IN RAMALLAH, JORDAN AND EGYPT, WITH SOME PHOTOS REMOVED FROM ALBUM. (TRUE, SAYS GREENMAN, WHO ADDED THAT HE HAD SPENT TWO YEARS, AT TWO DIFFERENT TIME, IN ISREAL.) REPORT SAYS HE VASTLY EXCEEDED ANY CONCEIVABLE INTEREST IN DIALECTS BY TAKING PHOTOS OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND PORT (GREENMAN SAYS PHOTOS WERE TAKEN BY HIS WIFE, AND INCLUDE NONE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE PORT. HE SAYS ON ONE TOUR HIS FILM WAS SEIZED BY MEMBER OF CENTRAL SECURITY OFFICE IN HODEIDA BUT RETURNED TO HIM BY MEMBER OF ANOTHER SECURITY OFFICE, NATIONAL SECURITY.) REPORT ALSO SAYS THAT HE WROTE TO PERSONS IN EUROPE AND US AND SENT THEM FILMS AND SOME WROTE BACK REQUESTING BETTER OR OTHER PICTURES. (GREENMAN SAYS HE WROTE TO FRIEND NAMED KRINSKY, WHO IS ISRAELI MOVIE MAKER IN PARIS BUT KRINSKY HAD NO INTEREST IN

YEMEN. GREENMAN ALSO CORRESPONDENT WITH MARCUS ELISON, WHO AP
CORRESPONDENT IN ISRAEL. SAYS HE SENT NO PICTURES, BUT DID
SEND PICTURES TO HIS MOTHER.)

6. AS READ TO ME BY ASNAG, REPORT MAKES NO CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE,
AND CITES NO CONTACTS WITH ISRAELIS, BUT MENTIONS IN ONE LINE
THAT FOREIGN WOMAN WHO QUESTIONED IN HODEIDA THOUGHT GREENMAN
WAS JEWISH. GENERAL IMPRESSION OF REPORT IS THAT YEMENIS BAFFLED,
SUPICIOUS OF WHAT TO THEM ARE STRANGE INTERESTS AND BEHAVIOR
OF THIS AMERICAN, WHO HAD NO TIES TO ANY INSTITUTION IN YEMEN.

7. GREENMAN WORRIED THAT THIS MAY BE "TIP OF ICEBERG." HE SAYS
YAHYA KUHLANI, WHO IS DEP MIN INT WAS PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN
EFFORTS EMBASSY MADE TO GET RESIDENT PERMIT FOR GREENMAN,
HAS BROTHER ALI WHO KNEW GREENMAN IN BUFFALO AND WHO KNOWS HE
JEWISH AND FORMER STUDENT IN ISRAEL ON TWO OCCASIONS. GREENMAN
SAYS HE MAY HAVE MADE MATTER WORSE BY CLAIMING HERE IN YEMEN
THAT HE CHRISTIAN, NOT JEWISH, AND BY DISCUSSING ON NUMEROUS
OCCASIONS WITH HODEIDA SHAYKH POSSIBILITIES OF CONVERSION TO
ISLAM. GREENMAN SAYS HE QUITE SINCERE IN THIS AND
IN RELIGIOUS SENSE, HE NOT RPT NOT A JEW. FRIEND OF SHAYKH,
HOWEVER, POLICE OFFICER WHO LATER VISITED GREENMANS SEVERAL TIMES,
INTERROGATED THEM. AND IS CLEARLY SOURCE OF REPORT ITEM ABOUT
PICTURE ALBUM.

8. NEVERTHELESS, ASNAG SAYS THIS IS NOT ISSUE, RATHER,
PROBLEM IS
THAT YEMENIS DON'T UNDERSTAND AND SUSPECT ACTIVITIES OF GREENMAN,
FEEL HE ISN'T REALLY STICKING TO SCHOLARLY BUSINESS.

9. CONSULAR OFFICER HAMBLEY SAYS HE TURNED UP LITTLE FROM
VISITS IN HODEIDA BUT IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT NATIONAL SECURITY
WAS SURPRISED BY PROBLEM AND CENTRAL SECURITY SEEMED KNOWING
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BUT NOT TALKING.

10. GREENMAN IS UNDERSTANDABLY DISMAYED, PROTESTS HIS INNOCENCE,
WANTS TO STAY ON IN YEMEN ALTHOUGH HE ADMITS THAT, WITH TAPES
HE HAD NOW, MOST OF HIS WORK FROM NOW ON WILL BE
EVALUATIVE WHICH NEED NOT TO OCCUR IN HODEIDA. HE DEEPLY TROUBLED
AT PROPECT OF EXPULSION, SAYS HE HOPED TO RETURN TO YEMEN TO
TEACH IN UNIVERSITY. HE IS CALM, HOWEVER, AND CLEAR-HEADED,
I HAVE PUT HIM AND HIS WIFE IN MY HOUSE WHILE HE IS IN SANA.

11. I SEE THREE OPTIONS.

12. FIRST, HE CAN LEAVE WITHIN WEEK, AS REQUESTED. ASNAJ
WOULD CLEARLY PREFER THIS. HE EXPLICITLY SAYS HE DOES NOT
WANT TO BE ONLY PERSON IN YARG WHO

DEFENDS GREENMAN AND "CAUSE OF LIBERTY AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN YEMEN."

HE SAYS HE ALREADY DESCRIBED AS AMERICAN AGENT, AND HE HAS DONE AS MUCH AS HE CAN IN INTERVENING AS HE HAS SO FAR. HE ASKED ME POLITELY IF WE SOUGHT CHARGES AGAINST GREENMAN TO CLEAR UP MATTER. I SAID NO. (MIN INT YUSEFI WAS AT AID DIRECTOR'S HOUSE JANUARY 26. CITED MATTER OF LETTER ABROAD, LACK OF SCHOLARLY FOCUS TO ACTIVITIES. HE SAID HE SORRY ABOUT EXPULSION, BUT GAVE NO SIGN OF GIVE OTHER THAN TO SAY SEVEN DAYS, NOT THREE, WERE ALL RIGHT.)

13. SECOND, WE CAN FIGHT TO HAVE DECISION REVERSED. THAT WILL TAKE STRONG INSTRUCTIONS, AND CALLS ON MININT, PRIME MIN, FONMIN AND, IN MY VIEW, MAKE THIS A CABINET ISSUE WHICH IS LIKELY TO HAVE OVERTONES OF CONFRONTATION OF LITTLE BUT SOVEREIGN YEMEN AND OVERWEENING USG. IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, MORE STORIES--- WITH MORE CREDULITY -- IS LIKELY TO MAKE GREENMAN'S PROBLEM WORSE.

14. THIRD OPTION IS TO GO BACK TO ASNAJ, SAY GREENMAN IS COMPLETELY INNOCENT OF ANY SECURITY VIOLATIONS, NEEDS SIX TO EIGHT MORE WEEKS TO FINISH HIS WORK. WE PROPOSE YARG SUSPEND ACTIONS, LET US BRING GREENMAN TO SANAA, AND MVESTO ESTABLISH TEMPORARY TIE IN FOR HIS SCHOLARLY WORK WITH YEMEN STUDIES CENTER --- WHICH ORIGINALLY APPROVED RESEARCH CONFIDENTIAL

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TOPIC AND GREENMAN --- OR WITH UNIVERSITY. WHILE HE IS IN SANAA EMBASSY WOULD AS IN PAST, GIVE ASSURANCES HIS GOOD BEHAVIOUR, NON-POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. WE COULD POINT OUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT WAS CLEARED, IN EFFECT, TWICE, ONCE BY YEMEN STUDIES CENTER BEFORE ARRIVAL AND ONCE AGAIN AFTER ARRIVAL WHEN WE HAD TROUBLE GETTING RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR GREENMAN.

15. THIRD OPTION MAY WORK. ASNAJ VOLUNTEERED IDEA AS I WAS LEAVING. IT WOULD REMOVE BLOT ON GREENMAN RECORD, GET HIM OUT OF HODEIDA --- WHERE ATMOSPHERE IS SURE TO BE POISONED AS THIS STORY

GETS AROUND --- AND BUY TIME IN WHICH POSSIBLY RELATIONS CAN BE IMPROVED. IT MIGHT DO MOST PROTECT FUTURE FLOW OF SCHOLARS TO YEMEN.

16. GREENMAN SUPPORT THIRD OPTION. SO DO I. PROBLEM WILL BE BRINGING SECURITY OFFICIALS AROUND.

17. I TOLD ASNAJ I WOULD REPORT AS ABOVE TO DEPARTMENT, SEEK INSTRUCTIONS, AND WOULD BE BACK ASAP. ASNAJ, WHO IN COMPANY OF AHMED ABDO SAID TOOK MORE THAN HOUR TO CAREFULLY EXPLAIN MATTER, MAKE INQUIRIES, CAN PROBABLY BE COUNTED ON TO TRY TO HELP. REQUEST

REPLY BY IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE CABLE WHICH I WOULD PREFER TO KEEP IN
LIMDIS CHANNEL.
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